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DTP-3282

DD/S 73-0727

26 FEB 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Training

SUBJECT : Language Training

STATINTL

This is in answer to your suggestion that I write down on paper what I was getting at regarding a measurable statement of an objective on language training.

We suggested earlier that the Language School might state an objective of qualifying x number of students in FY 1974 and FY 1975 at the various levels of comprehension by language, with verification through testing. If not being able to get accurate requirements from Agency components precludes a statement of such an objective, then I would suggest raising the issue of requirements generation with the Management Committee or, at a minimum, raising the issue here at the DD/S level. I also recognize that you in OTR may have gone this route before -- but this may be the time to try it again.

I suggest as one alternative way to raise this issue that you, the Language Development Committee, and the Chief, Language School, build a model of just what OTR's Language School - with the resources planned for FY 74 and FY 75 - can produce in terms of new or upgraded language skills acquisition. The model can be made up of different modules like BAHT, regular language training, home study only, and total immersion. Given the planned resources -- dollars, people (staff and contract) and available facilities and equipment -- how could these resources be mixed to produce some optimum result in terms of language skills developed, by language and number of people. OTR could use its own expertise and judgment as to language skills needed in the Agency -- OTR certainly is one reservoir of "expert opinion" in this area.

You might develop for display more than one model. With the model(s) in hand, a presentation before the Management Committee could make the Committee aware of the issue. The Management Committee

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could take the initiative to find out just "what are the Agency components' language training requirements?" Which model would best attempt to solve the Agency's perceived need for more highly qualified linguists? The models might show that OTR could:

- ..train many students at high learning levels in a few languages (with languages dropped or added over time).
- ..train many students, a few at high levels, but mostly at lower levels in many languages.
- ..train moderate numbers of students at high levels (but a few in each) in many languages.
- ..train a few students at high levels in each of many +x languages.

Quite possibly this alternative is no better or maybe worse than the present state of the world regarding the issue of identifying what (requirements) the components want or think they want. But, as Mr. Cunningham said, who better than OTR knows what training is required, so possibly in the end you will solve best the requirements issue.

SIGNED:

STATINTL

DD/S Plans Staff

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